

# Denise Moreno Ducheny

California State Senate • 40th District

## NewsRelease

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SENATOR DUCHENY HOLDS HEARING IN SAN DIEGO YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS HEALTHCARE CONCERNS**

**San Diego, CA** – More than 200 people gathered Wednesday at UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest to attend a Senate hearing on healthcare chaired by Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny (D-San Diego). Senator Ducheny, who is chair of the budget subcommittee on Health and Human Services, was joined by her colleague on the committee Senator Tom Torlaksen (D-Concord). Both Senators had the opportunity to hear from healthcare professionals throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties on the crises facing providers and stakeholders today.

A significant portion of the discussion was devoted to the fact that the region is home to a large number of uninsured people and is considered one of the fastest growing areas of the country.

"We all need to work together to ensure that our residents have access to healthcare when they need it," said Senator Ducheny. "It ends up costing everyone more when people are forced to delay treatment for illnesses and injuries because they either can't afford it or they don't have access to a doctor."

Senator Ducheny also raised the issue of the lack of federal reimbursement dollars for California. "California is ranked last out of fifty states in getting money back from the federal government for Medicaid reimbursement," said Senator Ducheny. "There's absolutely no rational reason why states like New York should be reimbursed \$3,554 per Medicaid patient while California only gets \$1,034 per patient. The bottom line is that their system is flawed and needs to be fixed."

After hearing testimony from hospital administrators complaining of cumbersome paperwork and delays of up to one year in reimbursement for uninsured patients, Senator Ducheny expressed her desire to streamline both the application process and the approval system.

"Every year, we are losing hospitals and doctors who are willing to treat Medi-Cal patients and the uninsured, and it's happening faster than can be replaced," stated Senator Ducheny. "We should be doing everything in our power as the government to ensure that those who choose to continue treating these patients are not also faced with huge stacks of paperwork and delays in repayment."

Senator Ducheny noted that the hearing was a unique opportunity for healthcare professionals, government representatives and residents, both insured and uninsured, to engage in a dialogue about how to best tackle the impending crisis facing the healthcare systems in both counties.

*Senator Denise Ducheny represents parts of San Diego and Riverside Counties and all of Imperial County.*

For additional information see attachment with agenda and panelists with contact phone numbers.  
Photos of the event are also available in .jpg format by contacting Christine Rodriguez at (619) 409-7690

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